

## **EMERGENCY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS**

### **U.S. EMBASSY LA PAZ, BOLIVIA**

**September 16, 2011**

This message updates American citizens traveling to and residing in Bolivia that due a general strike in the La Paz metropolitan area the Embassy is closed today (September 16). The strike has resulted in road blockades throughout La Paz including on roads to the airport and the main roads leading out of La Paz. As of this message the airport remains open; travelers should carefully monitor the news and contact air carriers for updated information before attempting to reach the airport. The Embassy is expected to open as normal on Monday, September 19.

U.S. citizens are reminded of the following emergency preparedness procedures:

- Maintain an adequate supply of food, water, medicines, and any other necessary items for your family on hand in your home.
- Fill your vehicle with gas and avoid letting it get below half a tank.
- Avoid areas where roadblocks and demonstrations are occurring and do not attempt to run blockades.
- U.S. citizens are advised to monitor the local media.

Due to this strike the U.S. Embassy will be open from 09:30 to 17:30. If, however, the situation deteriorates the Embassy may be forced to close for the entire day. The Embassy is open to the public by appointment only, however, due to the potential situation tomorrow all applicants with appointments who plan to come to the Embassy tomorrow should call 591-2-216-8000 or verify through the Embassy's website <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov> whether the Embassy will be open.

U.S. citizens are reminded that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia, and even though they might be intended to be peaceful they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any protests. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, it is recommended you leave the area immediately for your own safety.

U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Bolivia are encouraged to register and update their contact information at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz and/or the U.S. consular agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Registration may be done online and can be done in advance of travel. Information on registering may be found at the Department of State's Consular Affairs website:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's internet website at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current worldwide caution, travel warnings and travel alerts can be found. Additional information is available in the country specific information for Bolivia at <http://travel.state.gov> and on the embassy web page at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>. Current information on travel and security in Bolivia may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or, from overseas, 1-

202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). U.S. citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. embassy or consulate on the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at [consularlapaz@state.gov](mailto:consularlapaz@state.gov) or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this website.

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. These agencies can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477 during regular business hours (Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). The Cochabamba Consular Agency is located in the Edificio "SAAL," Avenida Pando No. 1122, Piso 1, Suites B and C. You can contact the Cochabamba Consular Agency by telephone at 591-4-411-6313 during regular business hours (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 08:30 to 12:30; Wednesdays: 13:30 to 17:30).

If you wish to visit either the Santa Cruz or Cochabamba Consular Agencies for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this website.

We hope this information is useful to you. If we may provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

American Citizen Services Unit

U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia